

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JULY 2004

Domestic primary aluminum production in July was 208,640 metric tons (t), according to data reported to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production was 6,730 t, 1% lower than that of the previous month and 8% below that for July 2003. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 82.56 cents per pound in June to 84.00 cents per pound in July, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased during most of the month of July. The price range began the month at 60–62 cents per pound and on July 6 increased to 61–63 cents per pound. The range increased to 62–64 cents per pound on July 9, where it held steady until July 27, when it returned to the 60–62 cents per pound level.

U.S. Trade through June

Total U.S. imports for consumption of aluminum for the first half of 2004 increased 6% compared with that for the first half of 2003. Imports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 6. Imports of metals and alloys increased 3%, led by a major increase in shipments from Brazil, along with smaller increases from both Canada and Russia. Imports of semifabricated materials increased 7%, and imports of scrap

increased 30% compared with those for the comparable period in 2003. Canada remained the largest shipper of aluminum materials to the United States, supplying 56% of total U.S. imports in the first half of the year.

Total aluminum exports in the first 6 months of 2004 increased 14% compared with those for the first half of 2003, led by a 48% increase in exports of metals and alloys. Exports of semifabricated materials increased 10%, and scrap exports increased 9% compared with those for the same period in 2003. Canada, Mexico, and China were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for more than 80% of total U.S. exports in the first half of 2004.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased in August to 83.0 cents per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during August. The price range began the month at 60–62 cents per pound. On August 3, the price range decreased to 59.5–61.0 cents per pound before rebounding to the 60–62 cents per pound level on August 17. On August 30, the price range again decreased, falling to 59–61 cents per pound.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2003 ^p	2,703	1,770	1,160	2,930	2,870	822	3,690	9,320	1,400
2003:									
July	226	140	97	236	233	74	307	770	1,480
August	225	153	100	253	194	67	261	739	1,470
September	217	152	98	249	215	70	284	751	1,400
October	224	154	105	259	210	72	281	765	1,380
November	215	147	99	246	233	67	301	761	1,390
December	221	139	86	226	243	64	306	753	1,400
January-July	1,600	1,020	676	1,700	1,770	483	2,260	5,550	1,480
2004:									
January	216	151	94	245	211	64	274	735	1,430
February	202	155	83	238	288	69	356	797	1,430
March	217	161	100	261	248	76	324	801	1,420
April	209	152	102	254	254	72	326	789	1,440
May	217	156	103	259	282	76	357	833	1,430 ^r
June	204	143 ^r	102	245 ^r	309	80	389	839	1,450
July	209	152	100	252	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-July	1,474	1,070	684	1,750	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2003 ^p	1,660	1,230	859	741	897	836	131	118	6	6	3,550	2,930
2003:												
July	122	89	75	64	78	73	11	10	(2)	(2)	286	236
August	137	101	71	62	85	79	12	11	(2)	(2)	306	253
September	135	100	70	60	84	79	12	10	(2)	(2)	302	249
October	145	107	80	70	76	71	12	11	(2)	(2)	314	259
November	138	102	75	64	75	70	11	10	(2)	(2)	299	246
December	126	93	61	52	76	71	10	9	(2)	(2)	274	226
January-July	980	725	502	433	500	466	75	67	4	4	2,060	1,700
2004:												
January	133	99	57	51	90	84	11	10	(2)	(2)	292	245
February	133	98	50	45	90	85	11	10	1	1	285	238
March	146	108	64	57	92	86	11	10	(2)	(2)	313	261
April	141	105	65	57	90	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	304	254
May	140	103	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	310	259
June	135 ^r	100 ^r	62	55	88 ^r	83 ^r	8	7	1	1	295 ^r	245 ^r
July	137	101	66	58	91	85	8	7	1	1	303	252
January-July	965	714	432	383	634	594	66	59	4	4	2,100	1,750

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JULY 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	114,000	137,000	84,300	101,000
Integrated aluminum companies	65,600	65,600	58,300	58,300
Independent mill fabricators	75,900	91,100	70,800	85,000
Foundries	6,990	8,380	6,170	7,400
Other consumers	507	608	507	608
Total	263,000	303,000	220,000	252,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN JULY 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	July			January-July ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	26,000 ^r	78,500	77,500	27,000	552,000	544,000
Can stock clippings	2,180 ^r	26,500	25,300	3,450	178,000	177,000
Other clippings	3,320 ^r	7,940	7,940	3,320	54,100	54,900
Borings and turnings	5,790 ^r	16,300	17,000	5,020	121,000	121,000
Dross and skimmings	4,930	32,300	32,300	4,920	224,000	224,000
Total new scrap	42,200 ^r	162,000	160,000	43,700	1,130,000	1,120,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	11,000 ^r	31,000	30,100	11,800	213,000	212,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,890 ^r	1,640	1,740	1,790	12,600	12,300
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	9,420 ^r	62,800	62,100	10,100	413,000	416,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,020 ^r	8,490	8,720	2,790	59,800	59,300
Total old scrap	25,300 ^r	104,000	103,000	26,500	698,000	699,000
Sweated pig	81	740	735	86	5,170	5,150
Total all classes	67,600 ^r	266,000	263,000	70,400	1,830,000	1,820,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2004^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	July				January-July ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,490 [†]	1,240	1,280	3,450	10,600	10,600
380 and variations	6,180 [†]	20,300	19,600	6,870	160,000	160,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,980	3,940	4,050	2,870	29,200	29,000
No. 319 and variations	3,930 [†]	8,200	7,750	4,370	73,100	74,300
F-132 alloy and variations	1,310	1,740	1,850	1,200	16,100	16,400
Al-Zn alloys	230	142	156	216	979	987
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39	22	22
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50	2,660	2,660
Other ⁴	4,770	5,500	6,440	3,830	43,300	44,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	9,850 [†]	20,800	20,800	9,850	143,000	142,000
Total all alloys	32,800 [†]	62,200	62,300	32,800	478,000	480,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,240	XX	XX	70,100	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,930	XX	XX	23,400	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	699	XX	XX	5,100	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	49,400	XX	XX	380,000	XX

[†]Revised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June
Argentina	1,850	26,900	51	287	--	204	1,900	27,400
Australia	10,400	30,900	3	41	18	35	10,400	30,900
Bahrain	199	798	1,070	5,750	--	--	1,260	6,550
Belgium	--	688	595	5,950	--	--	595	6,640
Brazil	24,500	102,000	2,690	11,400	100	450	27,300	114,000
Canada	147,000	884,000	42,800	238,000	31,400	171,000	221,000	1,290,000
China	115	2,500	4,560	23,300	(2)	77	4,680	25,900
France	34	234	654	3,260	39	117	727	3,610
Germany	313	3,840	6,610	36,700	43	125	6,970	40,700
Hungary	--	--	143	1,040	--	--	143	1,040
Italy	--	24	142	1,040	--	--	142	1,070
Japan	177	468	1,100	4,830	38	174	1,310	5,470
Korea, Republic of	--	21	304	1,530	--	29	304	1,580
Mexico	--	1,240	1,830	10,600	7,380	46,700	9,200	58,500
Netherlands	87	292	133	1,100	19	152	239	1,540
Norway	30	542	19	92	--	--	50	634
Russia	97,200	400,000	2,870	16,700	222	4,880	100,000	421,000
South Africa	4,040	17,500	4,000	19,000	--	--	8,030	36,500
Spain	--	70	28	343	--	--	28	413
Sweden	--	3	331	1,490	91	188	422	1,680
Switzerland	--	--	295	1,970	--	--	295	1,970
United Arab Emirates	4,180	26,800	--	--	--	167	4,180	27,000
United Kingdom	27	491	196	1,570	229	2,750	451	4,820
Venezuela	12,500	73,100	1,550	10,500	1,590	10,000	15,700	93,600
Other	6,340	19,600	8,320	40,000	5,120	27,800	19,800	87,400
Total	309,000	1,590,000	80,200	437,000	46,300	265,000	436,000	2,290,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June	June	January- June
Australia	13	43	244	1,060	--	4	256	1,110
Belgium	39	347	448	2,830	--	40	487	3,220
Brazil	135	231	426	6,800	--	(2)	561	7,030
Canada	12,200	66,900	46,000	269,000	13,300	74,300	71,500	410,000
China	(2)	168	2,020	15,400	19,200	134,000	21,200	149,000
Czech Republic	1	1	2	78	--	--	3	80
Dominican Republic	--	4	48	338	--	--	48	342
France	3	41	606	3,340	(2)	23	609	3,400
Germany	63	278	319	2,070	--	225	382	2,570
Hong Kong	6	54	1,250	2,990	474	7,570	1,730	10,600
India	2	110	15	120	1,430	2,930	1,450	3,160
Israel	173	716	71	1,180	--	19	244	1,910
Italy	2	23	224	1,110	--	--	225	1,140
Japan	302	2,950	542	3,330	2,830	11,200	3,680	17,400
Korea, Republic of	53	236	1,310	9,930	3,880	21,900	5,240	32,100
Malaysia	1	9	84	663	--	--	85	672
Mexico	14,400	67,100	14,600	71,400	3,050	18,500	32,000	157,000
Netherlands	1	101	51	364	12	126	65	591
Russia	2	3	--	22	--	--	2	24
Saudi Arabia	4	20	593	7,140	--	--	596	7,160
Singapore	20	148	151	787	76	343	247	1,280
Spain	1	81	73	428	535	590	609	1,100
Sweden	--	--	17	113	--	--	17	113
Taiwan	44	271	563	3,370	3,830	18,600	4,430	22,200
Thailand	31	68	157	1,510	265	729	452	2,300
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	58	512	818	5,470	6	107	882	6,090
Venezuela	--	14	49	1,150	--	3	49	1,160
Other	83	721	1,130	9,710	3,010	9,470	4,220	19,900
Total	27,600	141,000	71,800	422,000	51,900	300,000	151,000	863,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.